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Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 00126 060838Z

12-R
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-03 /016 W
---------- 067384
P 060751Z JAN 75
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5897

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 0126

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CVIS UR
SUBJECT: REVISION OF APPENDIX A 41.20

REF: STATE 279499

1. EMBASSY CONSOFFS APPRECIATE OPPORTUNITY TO OFFER SUGGESTIONS FOR REVISION OF APPA 41.20.

2. ONE GENERAL COMMENT - APPLICABLE NOT ONLY TO APPA BUT TO ENTIRE BODY OF VISA REGULATIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS, BOTH IV AND NIV- IS THAT OUR VISA SYSTEM IS PERHAPS UNDULY COMPLICATED AND WE HAVE TOO MANY REGULATIONS, RULES AND DIRECTIVES. THROUGH THE YEARS USG HAS EVOLVED VISA SYSTEM WHICH, WE BELIEVE, IS CONSIDERABLY MORE COMPLEX THAN SYTEM OF ANY OTHER COUNTRY. PRESENT SYSTEM IS SO COMPLICATED ONLY VISA OFFICERS CAN KEEP TRACK OF ALL OF IT, AND EVEN THEY ARE LIABLE TO MISS OR OVERLOOK SOMETHING IN VAST AMOUNT OF MATERIAL. VISA FAM'S APPA AND CURRENT VISA AIRGRAMS MEASURE ABOUT ELEVEN INCHES IN WIDTH. ANY EFFORT AT REVISION OF ANY PART SHOULD, HOPEFULLY, PRODUCE A REDUCTION IN SIZE.

2. WE SUGGEST ALL SECTIONS APPA SHOULD, FOR CONVENIENCE OF READER NOT INTIMATELY FAMILIAR WITH 22 CFR, HAVE TITLE AT HEAD OF PAGE. THUS, 41.20 SHOULD BE HEADED "FOREIGN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS".

3. NOTE 1 SUGGESTS MORE EXTENSIVE GRANTING OF CATEGORY A VISAS
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INSTEAD OF B-1 VISAS THAN HAS IN FACT BEEN RECENT US PRACTICE

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IN CURRENT VISA GAMESMANSHIP WITH SOVIETS. FOR EXAMPLE, MOST
PARTICIPANTS UNDER UA-USSR EXCHANGES AGREEMENT HAVE BEEN RECEIVING
B-1 OR J-1 VISAS, COTRARY TO TEXT OF NOTE 1(A).
MOST COMMERCIAL VISITORS RECEIVE B-1 BUSVIS VISAS, CONTRARY TO
NOTE 1(B). US VISA PRACTICE WITH REGARD TO AMTORG, INTOURIST,
ETC. IS COMPLICATED AND UNDER REVIEW. PERHAPS THIS SECTION
COULD BE DELETED FROM APPA AND MATERIAL COULD BE COVERED BY
FILES OF CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN DEPT AND POSTS MOST INVOLVED.

4. NOTE 3.1 SHOULD BE REWRITTEN FOR CLARITY- PERHAPS A CHART
WOULD BE MORE READILY COMREPHENSIBLE.

5. RE NOTE 3.2, WE SUGGEST THIS AND OTHER POSTS COULD NOT BE GIVEN DIS-

CRETION TO ISSUE C-3 VISAS TO SOVIET DIPLOMATS TRANSITING BY
AIR WHO (A) RECEIVED VISAS PREVIOUSLY, AND (B) ARE NOT IN
VLOB DPT 1, EVEN IN ABSENCE OF INFORMATION ABOUT EXACT FLIGHTS
TIME OF APPLICATION. POSTS COULD SEND VISAS HORSE MESSAGES,
AND DEPARTMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM WOULD BE RELIEVED OF
NEED TO SEND REPLY.
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